

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 15, 19-21, 26, 43, 45-50, 61, 62, 64, 66, 74-76, 79 and 374 are pending in this application. Claims 77 and 78 have been amended. Claims 1-76 and Claims 79-374 have been canceled.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 15, 19-21, 26, 43, 45-50, 61, 62, 64, 66, 74-76, 79 and 374 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 15, 19-21, 26, 43, 45-50, 61, 62, 64, 66, 74-76, 79 and 374 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Without acquiescing to this rejection, claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 15, 19-21, 26, 43, 45-50, 61, 62, 64, 66, 74-76, 79 and 374 have been canceled and thus it is believed that this rejection is moot.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 15, 19-21, 26, 43, 45-50, 61, 62, 64, 66, 74-76, 79 and 374 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeCrescenzo

Claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 15, 19-21, 26, 43, 45-50, 61, 62, 64, 66, 74-76, 79 and 374 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over DeCrescenzo et al. Without acquiescing to this rejection, claims 1, 2, 8, 10, 15, 19-21, 26, 43, 45-50, 61, 62, 64, 66, 74-76, 79 and 374 have been canceled and thus it is believed that this rejection is moot.

III. Objection of Claims 77 and 78

Claims 77 and 78 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, however, claims 77 and 78 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten Claims 77 and 78 in independent form. It is believed that this amendment complies with the request, since all of the

limitations of the base claims and intervening claims are implicitly included in Claims 77 and 78.

IV. Request for Foreign Documents

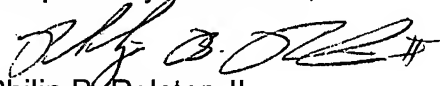
Applicants acknowledge Examiner's request for the foreign documents recited in applicants' information disclosure statement and form 1449 filed September 25, 2003. Applicants note that reference numbers 23-27 are available in PAIR, and it is believed that the examiner has access to these documents. If the Examiner would like hard copies of the references, applicants would be happy to provide them. As to references 28-36, those documents are attached to the present response.

The Examiner has also stated that IDS statements that list copending applications need to be inserted into "Other Documents" section in compliance with MPEP 609. Please note that representation for the present application has recently changed. Applicants' representative would like clarification of this request. Does the Examiner wish to review the documents listed in this or another IDS, or does the Examiner request that a supplemental IDS be filed listing certain copending applications? Applicants will be happy to comply with either request.

V. Conclusion

If the Examiner believes a telephonic interview with Applicant's representative would aid in the prosecution of this application, she is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,



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